

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

REF: (A) STATE 077387, (B) CANBERRA 2437, (C) CANBERRA 2296
(D) STATE 89645 (E) STATE 56879

1. LIKELIHOOD THAT AUSTRALIAN TRADE MEASURES WILL NOW BE
INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF APRIL 30 OECD TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAKES IT IMPORTANT THAT WE CLARIFY SEQUENCE, RELATIONSHIP
AND SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF OUR VARIOUS INTERVENTIONS WITH
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GOA ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. OUR FIRST TASK IS TO INSURE THAT GOA FULLY AWARE OF
OUR CONCERNS RE ITS TRADE ACTIONS, TOGETHER WITH OUR
DESIRE FOR A FULL MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF THEIR IMPACT IN

OECD. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO COMMUNICATE OUR CONCERNS AS OUTLINED REF. A AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, SINCE GOA REACTION MAY BE A FACTOR IN FORMULATING OUR POSITION FOR OECD DISCUSSION. WHILE WE NOTE EMBASSY'S REF. B ARGUMENT FOR DELAY IN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS, WE SUSPECT GOA MAY BE TEMPORIZING IN HOPE THAT OUR CONCERNS WILL DISSIPATE WITH TIME. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES, OF COURSE, THAT THERE ARE OVERRIDING REASONS FOR FURTHER DELAY, IT SHOULD PROMPTLY SO ADVISE.

3. SECOND TASK IS TO STRAIGHTEN OUT POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH RESPECT TO US/AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL CONSUL-

TATIONS. THESE MAY HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS IN EARLY APRIL (REPORTED REF. C) WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLY EXPANDING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO ENCOMPASS "AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" ON ENTIRE RANGE OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES ON "BOTH SIDES". WE AGREE FULLY WITH EMBASSY THAT BILATERAL OF THIS SORT IS UNDESIRABLE AND SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED, FOR OBVIOUS REASON THAT IT VITIATES A DESIRED EMPHASIS ON AUSTRALIAN MEASURES. IT IS ALSO INCONSISTENT WITH OUR PREFERENCE FOR USING MULTILATERAL FORUM TO EXAMINE LARGER POLICY PROBLEM POSED BY AUSTRALIAN MEASURES, WHILE LEAVING TO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (WHICH WE HAVE REQUESTED UNDER ARTICLE IX (2) OF MFA (REF. D), AND ACCEPTED UNDER GATT ARTICLE XIX FOR STEEL SHEETS AND PLATE (REF. E) DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC IMPAIRMENT OF US TRADE INTERESTS. EMBASSY SHOULD, THEREFORE, ACT ON ITS OWN RECOMMENDATION TO DISPOSE QUICKLY OF IDEA OF "EXPANDED" BILATERAL, ARGUING IF APPROPRIATE THAT MULTILATERAL FORA ARE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERING GOA ACTIONS AT BROAD LEVEL, SINCE THESE ACTIONS IMPACT DIRECTLY ON MANY OF THE MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES' INTERESTS.

4. THIRD TASK IS TO DEVELOP BETTER GENERAL OVERVIEW OF BROAD GOA TRADE POLICY AND TO ANALYZE IMPACT ON US OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EXISTING AND POTENTIAL TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EMBASSY'S EARLY REPORT ON PROMISED ASSESSMENT, AND URGE EMBASSY'S CONTINUED ATTENTION TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE BEHAVIOR. WITH RESPECT TO IMPACT OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE MEASURES ON US EXPORTS, WE NEED BETTER DEFINITION (SPECIFICALLY TSUS OR BTN CATEGORIES) ON NON-TEXTILE ITEMS BEFORE COMMERCE CAN UNDERTAKE ANALYSIS OF TRADE IMPACT SIMILAR TO THAT DONE ON TEXTILE ITEMS. BREAKDOWN OF AUSTRALIAN IMPORT DATA FOR ITEMS UNDER TARIFF QUOTAS IS MORE COMPLETE THAN OUR EXPORT FIGURES AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL.

5. ON MATTER OF NOTIFICATION PRACTICES, WE APPRECIATE
INFO CONTAINED REF. B BUT FIND LEAD TIME AVAILABLE TO
EXPORTERS SINGULARLY CONSTRAINED. WHILE COMMERCE HAS
ACTED ON EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL TO NOTIFY EXPORTERS, WE
BELIEVE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEEK EXTENSION OF LEAD
TIMES POINTING TO OBVIOUS PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR
EXPORTERS TO RESPOND. KISSINGER

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